

Men Who Enjoy Being Women

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Illusions

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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2.....\$8.00

DEAR READER

We are winding down for summer holidays now and this has been a great 5th year for us and no doubt the 6th year will be interesting as well. The royalty is in place and the girls are excited about their new ideas for the upcoming year ahead. The shop will have limited hours in the month of August...so please call. Christine and I and family will be knee deep in sand and sun hopefully!

We hope that whatever you are doing this summer whether it be with family or jobs or whatever...you have fun and come back safe in the fall.

We are looking forward to the fall season Halloween or course and with it all of the other events that one can take in.

We know that Illusions will continue to burst at the seams with new gals. Its always exciting for people to connect.

Whether you have been here for a long time or you are brand new... you are all welcome. In this new year,

try to remember your roots. Remember how tough it was to come in those front doors and to need a friend. Reach out to the new gals that are just as scared as you once were. Keep in touch with members that have been around for awhile as well... they might not always be right on track... a little encouragement for all of us helps to keep us pointed in the right direction.

In *Sunglasses and Sandpails,*
Barbie and Christine.

Illusions editors: Barbie, Christine and Lisa

Illusions' Calendar of Events

Calgary

July 15 - 2nd Stampede BBQ
July 27- Break For Summer Social
August - Club Break, No Meetings
Aug 26 - The Girls of Summer III
At the Boxxe Cafe-Details in this Magazine
Sept 16 - Special Appreciation Night
Sept 28 - Regular Social
Oct 14 - Regular Social
Oct 26 - Halloween Theme
Oct 31 - Halloween! Crossdresser National Holiday and Outing.

Red Deer

Our Socials Take Place on Every Last Saturday of the Month at:

The Other Place Bar

Bay 3 & 4, 5579-47 St.
Red Deer
342-6440
Call for details

Hey Beavis, This is Cool!

Edmonton

July 13 - Video Night
Aug 10 - Photo Night
Aug 20 - ISCWR Ball
Sept 14 - Makeover Night

Were back again with a regular schedule of monthly socials. See our article in this magazine. For location and Illusions information Call: 486 - 9661

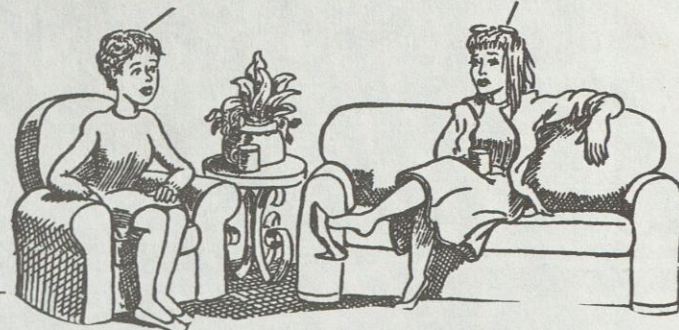
Yeah...Cool!

Attendance to Illusions Calgary and Edmonton functions require that you be a member or invited guest, of either Illusions or an Illusions member.

For location information, or other details about who we are, call:

403-236-7072 in Calgary

403-486-9661 in Edmonton



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Socially Speaking...

we have alot of news for you ladies about our past and upcoming events. So look back at the fun and grab a pen too, because you'll have many days to circle on your Illusions party calendar.

It was an extremely successful year for the Illusions Social Committee, not only did we have fun we made money. With this healthy social fund your new committee will continue the tradition set in the 1994-95 Illusions year.

A new committee? Yes the premiere social committee of Empress IV Lisa, Princess IV Diane, Colleen, Melanie, Karen and Fredelle will pass the party hats to a new group. This new committee is being headed by Empress V Teri along with her princesses Michelle and Jacqui, and her ladies in waiting. Teri has begun to plan the year ahead and is asking for any volunteers to join the committee. The more help the better.

Teri and Lady in Waiting, Karen were on the previous committee. Their experience will be valuable.

The social calendar for the '95-'96 Illusions year will soon be completed, please give Teri your input. At the moment here is a partial list of coming events.

Thursday July 27 - Summer Break Social

August - No Events EXCEPT...

Saturday August 26 - 3rd Annual Girls of Summer Party. At the Boxxe Cafe (Further details in this magazine)

Saturday September 16 - A Special Appreciation Night. BE THERE

If you want to join the committee, have an idea or give a donation see Teri at one of the upcoming socials or leave a message for her at Illusions.

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You don't want to miss out on these photos!

Due to our expanded anniversary issue we couldn't show you all the fun from our March lip-sync night. Pictured are Empress IV Lisa in her sequins, Princess IV Diane envious of a certain Barbie, Jacqui on stage for the first time getting ready for the Empress V pageant as well as Michelle and Teri who wowed us with her green chocolates, appropriate for St. Paddy's or Patti's day celebrations. Not much green worn though.

TV/TS Councillor Session An Illusions information night

Reported by

Coreen

As part of the series of education nights planned by the social committee, Dr. J. J. Miles was invited to speak and answer questions at the Saturday, May 13 meeting. Because of this, the meeting was well attended, with many members travelling long distances to be there. Dr Miles is a clinical psychologist specializing in sexual issues, which include gender dysphoria. He deals with approximately 20 such clients each year. On top of being a member of Illusions, he also belongs to the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, The Society For The Scientific Study Of Sex, and the Canadian Sex Research Forum, to name a few.

In talking with him, he added that in the past, he has had to bear the brunt of some rather severe criticism from other colleagues. Though not specialising in his field, they have never the less resorted to name calling, and questioning his methods in dealing with TV and TS individuals, which he does so in an understanding and sympathetic way. He deserves recognition for standing up for all of us and to the medical world.

Except for some untimely interruptions, the presentation went well. Diane hosted various prepared questions, which J.J. (as he insisted on being called) replied to, while all was recorded on video. This tape is now available in our library (don't forget your \$2!), thanks to the efforts of Empress Teri. This article will only briefly describe its content, and it is highly recommended that one view this tape. For myself and having been there, I found that seeing it again was extremely beneficial. I found I had missed a lot, possibly from distractions, and on occasion, had even misinterpreted what J. J. had actually said. The old 'Rewind' button is good in these situations!

In brief, here are the digested questions that were dealt with during his visit:

- 1) When does it all start?
- 2) Why do we dress?
- 3) Is it related to genetics?
- 4) Where is the line between crossdressing and some sort of fetish behaviour?

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- 5) What factors do you use to determine if one is truly a woman trapped inside a man's body?
- 6) For those who've had SRS, how many would you say it was the right decision?
- 7) Does CD/TVing lead to TS?
- 8) Do CDs associating TSs risk becoming a TS because of it?
- 9) How many TSs complete the transition after starting it?
- 10) Do some CDs become asexual out of convenience, due to the difficulty in finding that understanding mate?
- 11) Does the desire to get attention, while CDed, from other men mean one has gay tendencies?
- 12) Do CDs show a higher than normal sex drive?
- 13) When or should one tell their children about their CD/TS nature?
- 14) At what point do you feel a CD/TS requires professional help?

As you can see, a lot of ground was covered! Dr. Miles gave factual answers and some were surprising or unexpected. He appeared to be honest in admitting when he didn't know something. Near the end, he mentioned several surgeons who perform SRS, and included their costs as well as their reputations.

When he was finished with the questions from the crowd, several members had further questions answered one on one. With his departure, we were left with the promise of receiving questionnaires from him, in order to further accurate research on trans gendered issues. This is still in the works, so stay tuned!

more social committee news.....

Letter from the Editor Blah, Blah, Blah



Summer is here and I'm counting the days till holidays! Yehah. Always a great chance to charge up my batteries. Its been busier in the shop lately with new potential members...thanx to the media coverage concerning the shop. We were first in the Calgary Herald, the Toronto Star and then in the Ottawa Star. From that exposure, a radio station in Hamilton picked up on the crossdressing theme and I did a live interview with hopefully, listeners tuning in from all over! The word is getting out folks....this is a great hobby!

With the new people surfacing, comes the recurring themes that have touched all of our lives.... the secrets, purging, yearnings and significant others that don't know.

"TO TELL OR NOT TO TELL"?

There was a fellow in for the first time which was obviously a bridge for him to cross. We chatted about things concerning this hobby...and the dilemma of whether to tell his wife or not came up. He stated that she in fact was the love of his life and that he'd been lucky to have had nearly 20 years of marriage with her to date.

Now there's a dichotomy here- she's the love of his life although he is too uncomfortable to tell her about this. How is she going to feel after hearing of a 20 year secret? She might be OK with the crossdressing but angry over the secretive nature of the disclosure!

What do you do? How do you test the waters? How do you send up a test balloon of sorts? For 20 years I'm sure he's kept an eye open for how she reacts towards his fetish. Everyone has surely seen a drag queen or a film that covers this topic? How did she react?

Maybe its time to rent the movie Mrs. Doubtfire, Priscilla or even an old Monty Python movie! Granted these situations and style of movies may not be quite like your life or how you see things, but they do ignite a conversation.

Armed with good information is always a great support for the job ahead. The questions that she will no doubt be thinking or asking.. need to be prethought of and figured out.

One could always start with a 3rd party reference...always watching for additional clues.

Trial Balloons are perfect. From them you can see what kind of fire it draws (be it friendly or enemy).

So if she's open even part way - now what? Keep sharing yourself and your intimate thoughts.. Proceeding comfortably and with some control with gain you lots of mileage in the long run. Too often people turn like kids in candy stores and expect that they can burst out of their closets with open arms from those around them. Invading someone else's space is actually quite ironic when up until now you have been totally secretive about all of this. Discretion.

So lets say that you have told her and she's not fussed? Now what are you going to do? Cats out of the bag. On one hand this has been an incredibly healthy thing for you to do..you have unburdened yourself with this massive secret off your shoulders. You can always seek counselling from a neutral party..for you or both of you. Hopefully not to extinguish the fetish but to integrate into your lives. Unfortunately when one takes a stand and exposes oneself theres always the fear and reality of rejection. These problems can also spill into other parts

of your life. A cautionary note is that you could wind up in divorce court, course you could wind up there anyways if your lives are not perfectly entwined.

If you are fortunate enough to be sharing your life with your soul mate, then ALL things should be shared. Its a give and take situation full of respect.

"In a soulful relationship, the partners know that we are all individuals, with our own kind of richness that may not be fully and plainly revealed in daily life, and that an intimate relationship demands a courageous acknowledgement of differences."

This quote was taken from a book that I just read...called "Soul Mates" Honoring the Mysteries of Love and Relationship by Thomas Moore. Its an excellent read concerning matters of the heart and soul.

We are supposed to communicate to our partners. We are expected to be good listeners and to be full of patience and empathy. We are given the illusion that its possible to understand ourselves and others.

So you just can't tell? I hope you realize that this will never go away. No matter how hard you try...it is a part of you. Do you choose to fight it, hide it, ignore it or share it?

At Illusions we proud to say that there's a vast amount of experience and knowledge to draw on. Reach out and talk to somebody, you might find some answers for your own dilemma's

Have a great summer, enjoy your family times together and we'll talk to you in the fall. Swim safe!. Love Barbie

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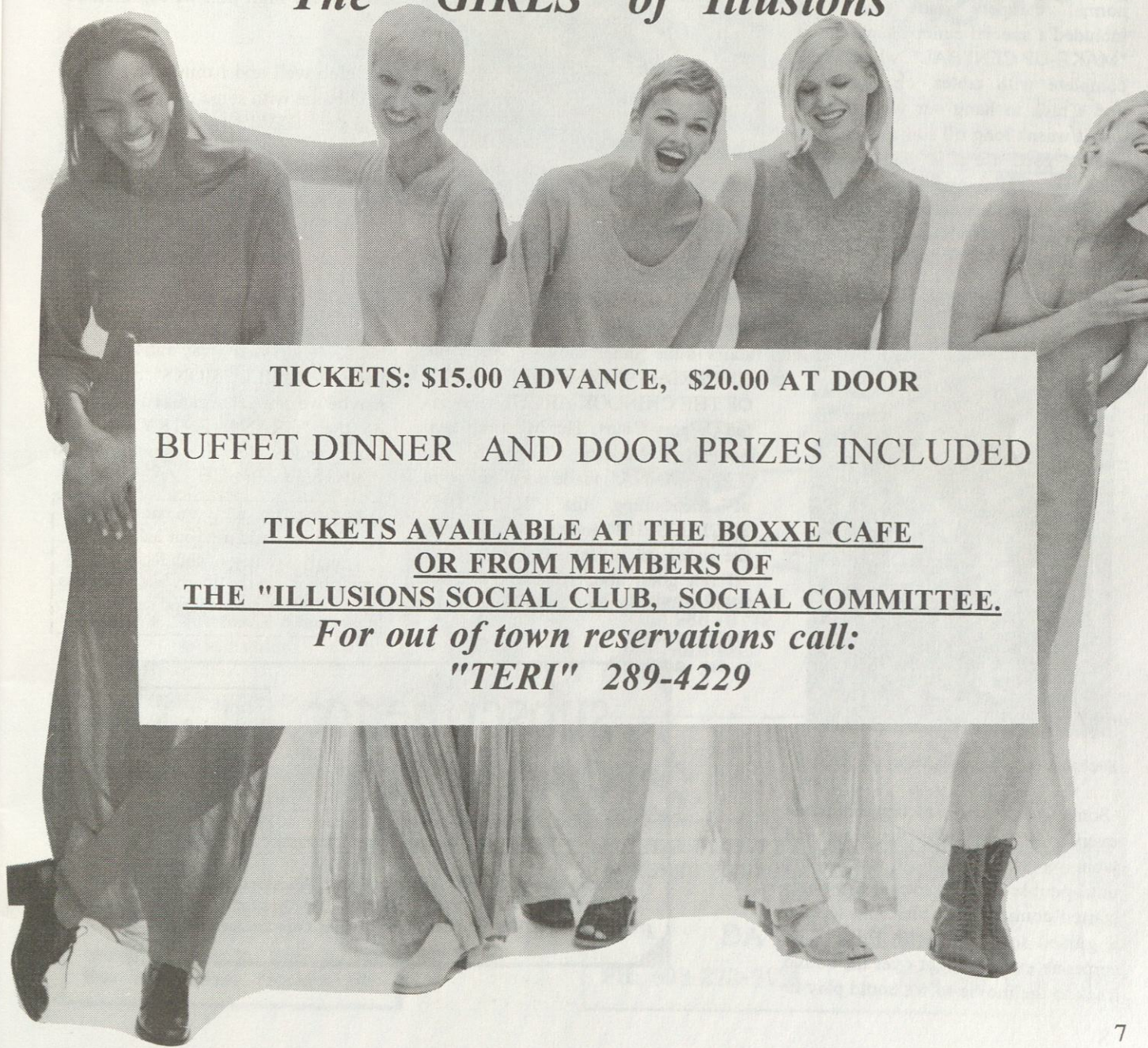
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YAHOO!! WE WENT TO THE RODEO!!

BY: MICHELLE HART

Yes, it's official, the third annual Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo held at the Symons Valley Ranch just minutes north of Calgary is over and but a memory and for those Illusions members that attended it will be a fun event to remember! Around noon on Saturday about seventeen of us arrived at the Rodeo and staked a claim to part of the Ranch's excellent campground. Water, electricity, toilets and showers were all amply available and by about 2 o'clock we had a great campsite set up, which besides the normal campers and vans also included a special canopy tent, called "MAKE-UP CENTRAL", which came complete with tables, chairs, mirrors and a rack to hang our wardrobe on and it wasn't long till some of us were making good use of it! Sonya arrived with friends P.J. and Betty in a big silver camper bus, which everybody and I mean everybody immediately christened "PRISCILLA"!

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Empress Teri, Princess Michele, and Kim

from time to time! Us cowgirls had a barbecue in the early evening and then we all went to the dance.

We watched the country singing competitions and then went down stairs to the "drag" show put on by the "IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN ORDER OF THE CHINOOK ARCH", which is the Calgary Court. Her Most Imperial Sovereign Majesty, "DONNA DU YAH WANNA", made a special point of mentioning the "ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB" and our attendance at the rodeo on several occasions. We all felt good about that! I did one performance in the Courts show and it

was a great thrill for me to be introduced to the audience as ILLUSIONS 1st PRINCESS V, "MICHELLE HART"...wow! and so we partied on!

We had a wonderful time, we met lots of new people and some of us partied with new friends until the sun came up! The thing that amazed me about this event was how easily and how genuinely we were accepted by the people around us! They went out of their way to include us in everything and make us feel at home. Despite the high jinx we represented

our club well and I think all of us went home with some great memories. And then added to all of that was the fact that for those of us who live out of town, we met some people from our own area that we can visit with in the future. For myself and "ILLUSIONS" Lady In Waiting "DANA", this was an unexpected bonus! So, like I said at the beginning, it's all out and over, but the 4th Annual "ARGRA" Rodeo is but one short year away and so.....well there is an "ILLUSIONS" banner, so maybe we can get organized enough to do the "GRAND ENTRY" at next years rodeo..Hey it's something to think about ..eh gals! YAHOO!

Attention all Volunteers!
Illusions could use your help in the daily cleaning of club facilities, contribution to the library and donations of coffee, cream, and sugar.

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Stephanie, Princess Jacqui, Monica, & "Priscilla"

Sonya's bus was a big hit once everybody knew who we were and what we were up to! It wasn't long until people from all over the grounds started coming for a visit and to take a guided tour of "PRISCILLA" and someone even brought over the sound track to the movie so we could play it



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Viewpoint

The Thoughts of Chairman Pooh

I just wanted to compliment Lisa on her editorial in the Nov/Dec Illusions. Her comments and philosophy are very much like my own. I thought I would send you something that I wrote for our newsletter. I am the treasurer of EON (Expressing Our Nature) a TV/TS club here in Central New York. I hope you enjoy it and needless to say, I'd welcome your comments.

What, you ask yourself, do the miscellaneous feminine arts we collectively refer to as 'crossdressing' have to do with a very old eastern philosophy, or for that matter a small brown bear of very little brain? Ah grasshopper, you've much to learn. Crossdressing has nothing less than EVERYTHING to do with the eastern philosophy of Taoism and the adventures of said small brown bear are an excellent way to demonstrate them.

In the first place crossdressers, perhaps more than any other people are uniquely fitted to appreciate the fine points of Taoism (pronounced Dow-ism). The basic tenant of this philosophy is to be yourself. Be what nature intended you to be and nothing else. What better code for a crossdresser? Nature made you a certain way. Find out what is and act in accordance with it you'll be happy. Avoid it, ignore it or feel guilty about it and you'll be miserable.

In his book "The Tao of Pooh" by Benjamin Hoff, the author uses the stories of Winnie the Pooh and friends, to illustrate some of the basic points of Taoist philosophy. Now, those of you who've read them understand that at first glance, Pooh Bear was not given to deep and meaningful thoughts. But scratch the surface of these thoughts and you'll see that our hero was probably at the most successful of the characters in the stories because he acted in accordance with his nature and never tried to out think it. In short, the perfect Taoist. To illustrate, a short quote:

Continued on Page 11 Tao-Pooh

Pooh Bear, a crossdresser?...A daydream that almost becomes real...Being a whole person...

Dream into Action

"There's a long, long trail a winding/Into the land of my dreams." - Stoddard King

My first erotic dream that I can remember was on of the most vivid dreams I ever had. I must have been nine years old, maybe younger, when I had it. I dreamed I woke up as a girl in the basement of my grandmothers house. In the dream I walked about, thrilled and aroused by the transformation, enjoying the feel of my new body and my new clothing-a red dress. I was also terrified that someone would see me, and I was unsure about whether I would go back to being male, or if I even wanted to. When I awoke from this dream I was quite shaken. Unlike most dreams, this one was filled with many details that I could easily recall-it had seemed so real. It was a long time ago, but I seem to remember being disappointed that it was only a dream. I thought it would be great to be magically turned into a girls. The only thing that bothered me about this fantasy was the way I imagined everyone else would react, especially my parents.

"Sometimes I want to be a woman. I want to know what it is like..."

I don't know what precipitated the dream. I don't remember consciously desiring to be a girl before that moment. I don't know if anyone had dressed me up as a girl before. Sometimes I think that my family situation for the first two years of my life-crucial years in the development of personality, according to the experts-had something to do with it. I lived with my mother, my female cousin, my aunt, grandmother, and great-

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grandmother untill I was two (when my mother met my father). All these adults were/are, non-abusive, loving, responsible, exemplary people.

Continued page 19 Dreams



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Viewpoints

Ideas and Thoughts for TV's/TS's

Tao-Pooh

Crossdressing and the Honey Jar

continued from page 10

"When you wake up in the morning Pooh," Said Piglet at last, "What's the first thing you say to yourself?"

"What's for breakfast" Said Pooh. "What do you say, Piglet?"

"I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today?" Said Piglet.

"...It's the same thing" Said Pooh.

I ask you, how can you go wrong with a philosophy like that? If you look for adventure, you will find it. Conversely if you look for trouble, you'll find that too. This by the way is a decidedly "un-Poohish" thing to do.

Now apply this to our curious habit of dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex. To a Taoist (or a Poohist if you prefer) the simple solution would be to just do what comes naturally. But to most people, that is too simple. We have to confuse the issue. We do this by thinking like other Winnie the Pooh characters. To wit:

Our first mistake is to act like Owl. We have to know WHY we crossdress. What is this thing in us that makes us different? We must have a label, write a text book, develop a program, dissect and define, etc., etc. Now a certain amount of this is fine but even if your dressed when you do this your head is so busy with 'important things, that you can't so the MOST important thing, you can't enjoy your dressing!

Sooner or later we might act like Piglet or Eeyore. We get scared and nervous. Will we look OK? Are we good enough? Can we pass? Bugged down on self doubts, we take the Piglet path and apologise for not being better at what we do, or we take the Eeyore path and demean our efforts before others get a chance to. When we are convincing others that our performance doesn't measure us (or can't in the case of Eeyore) then it is very difficult to enjoy ourselves. Piglet is to scared to be happy and Eeyore...? Well, Eeyore enjoys being miserable. He's to afraid to risk to try anything else.

After a while we might move on to another character. We could be Rabbit, fed up with

our inner conflict and so insecure in our own world that we will go to any lengths to upset the apple carts of others. We will attack and harass but always in the guise of 'doing what's best'. Sort of a CD equal to Greenpeace. "If your not part of the solution, you're part of the problem...and my way of doing things is the ONLY solution". This approach has a great short term advantage but sooner or later Rabbit is always undone by his narrow attitude and selfishness.

An alternative to Rabbit (and the type that Rabbits really dislike) is Tigger. Tiggers can do anything. They surmount any obstacle, crash through any defence and roll over all opposition. They attack any problem with the tact of a sledge hammer and the subtlety of an artillery barrage. Tiggers are very food bouncers but they never seem to notice the things (or people) that they land on. The trouble with Tiggers is that they look forward to much. They never look behind them to see the damage they leave in their wake. Not everyone can be a Tigger, which is probably for the best.

"But Pooh, why are you dressing like a woman?"

Now if you see yourself in any of these little character studies, don't feel bad. We all act like each of them at one point or another. The trick is to act like Pooh as often as possible! We are all an Eeyore, Rabbit or Owl to some degree. Why? Because we are human, that is why.

To escape form Poohism for a while thin about a lyric from a song written twenty or so years ago by Harry Chapin. The song is: "Mr Tanner". It's about a man who owned a laundry and also possessed a beautiful singing voice. The refrain goes;

"He sang from his heart, and he sang from his soul,

He did not know how well he sang,
It just made him whole."

Most crossdressers could learn alot from Mr Tanner. Not to mention a small brown bear of very little brain.

Speaking of Pooh, it's probably time to see how he would have reacted to being a crossdresser. Consider the following discussion between our hero (or rather heroine) and Piglet.

"Pooh, what are you doing?" Piglet asked as he observed Pooh struggling into a dress.

"I'm putting on a dress Piglet" Pooh had be this time won his struggle and was now attempting the same with a pair of black high heels.

"I have felt an urge for many years to dress like a lady and since I can think of no reason why I shouldn't..." He stopped for a second to apply a little lipstick. When he was satisfied with the result, he continued. "I will."

Piglet had a rather worried expression on his face. Sort of the kind you get if you bit into an apple and found a worm. "But...Pooh, why are you dressing like a woman?"

"Because I want to." Said Pooh, accidentally gluing his eyelids together with false eyelash adhesive.

"But don't you need a better reason than that?" asked Piglet.

"My dear Piglet." Said Pooh, as he adjusted his wig. "There IS no better reason than that."

I can't think of one either but in the finest of traditions of the Taoists, or rather Poohist, I'm not going to try. Enjoy yourselves ladies.

Victoria Lynn

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VIEWPOINT.....

"ILLUSIONS" #1 CLUB IN NORTH AMERICA!

by... Krystal Steele

Well, hello again, this is Krystal; "Queen of the Plains" Steele here to report on my latest excursion down to the U.S. to the most recent "ESPRIT" get together in Port Angeles, Washington. I met "Raven" (formerly Brooke) in Vancouver and along with Raven's girlfriend, Maggie, we drove down to Port Angeles.

In a nutshell, the Esprit event (much like last year) was marginally alright. For most of the "gals" there it is probably considered to be the major event of the year but for the three of us, it was chiefly an exercise in how to politely conceal our consistent bouts of yawning. The main reason I personally find the event less than great is because I have been absolutely spoiled rotten by what I have come to realize as being the biggest and **best CD club** in North America: "**Illusions**".

One only has to travel to another province or state (I've now been to Vancouver, Kansas City and Washington) to start fully appreciating just how good we have it in Calgary with "**Illusions**". In talking with "gals" from all over Canada and the U.S., I've found out there is no such thing as an "**Illusions**" - ANYWHERE else. Sure, there are little Tri-Ess or Cornbury (I call it "Cornhuskers" due to their similar, lame Tri-Ess like "constitution") clans scattered here and there but we're talking about small groups of 10 or 15 clone members who get together to gossip in some motel room.

When I tell other CD's about "**Illusions**", they are envious as hell. They find it hard to grasp the concept of an actual club with a "clubhouse" where you can not only go twice a month for social events - but also drop in anytime during the week to just "hang out" for a while if you like. Attending these "foreign" events, I've not surprisingly met a fair number of people who are TS, or in some other way "alternative" in philosophy and the question they always ask is: "What is '**Illusions**' constitution?" When I tell them our club's "**constitution**" is to have **NO constitution** except one of **open-mindedness and understanding** - it damn near brings tears to their eyes!

By the time this viewpoint gets printed, Illusions' 5th anniversary will have come and gone. I believe every one of us should make it a point to personally thank Barbie and Christine for the creation and continued nurturing of "**Illusions**". There's really nothing like it anywhere else. In addition to Barbie and Christine, a little recognition and a big thank-you should also be extended to a few of the members who have really given 110% effort like Lisa and Diane for their time and creativity in adding to the fun "**Illusions**" provides.

When I got back into Calgary after Esprit, I went in to see Barbie and said to her what I really believe to be true:

"Oh, Auntie Barbie, there's no place like home!"



....Guess Who's New At the Club?....

#360 BEVERLY Central B.C. and recently let wife know.
#361 JANIS Enjoys going out, shopping and dinners.
#362 DARLENE CD'ing since 10, just started to accept myself in last year.

#363 KARRIE Lifelong CD'er looking to meet new friends.
#364 BREANNA From southern Alberta and happy to be here.
#365 ROXANNE Knew we were out there just took awhile to connect.

#357 MANDY Saskatoon member and thrilled to have found us.

#358 A.R. Coming to us from Winnipeg and happy to have found a safe place to meet others.

#359 JAN Not out of "Closet"-nervous, would like to connect with others.

THE OTHER PLACE



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EMPRESS TERI

Every organization has a certain spirit that pervades it, and that spirit is as much responsible for its success or failure as the assets it owns or the environment it faces. Calgary may not seem like the most likely location to have one of the biggest and best clubs of our kind on the continent, but the spirit that has evolved in Illusions is one of the factors that has led to its survival and growth. I believe there are two critical parts to the Illusions spirit, tolerance and volunteerism.

Within our group we are always hoping for tolerance: that neighbours won't shun us and employers won't fire us if they find out. But there is a lot more to true tolerance than that. When one belongs to a group that often attracts social disapproval, it's easy to end up with a chip on one's shoulder, to constantly be on the lookout for affronts, and sometimes to react to them in a typical testosterone-induced fashion. Many a group in the gender community has broken up because people were quick to take offence where none may have been intended, and once the gauntlet was thrown down, no one was prepared to swallow their pride and end the dispute. So far in Illusions I think we have been fortunate to avoid this problem for the most part, and I hope we can continue to do so. So the next time someone says something that offends your particular subgroup or conflicts with your pet theory on gender issues, just remember how precious the atmosphere that we have here is. Assume they did it inadvertently, turn the other cheek, and wait for a moment another day when you can discuss the matter amiably.

The second pillar of the Illusions spirit is volunteerism. The club was literally built with volunteer labour, as our "Founding Mothers" renovated the shell of the Pink Palace and were immortalized by the pink helmets hanging by the bar. Since then many members, particularly recently named

(Continued on Next Page)

Throne Speech

HELLO..FROM 1st PRINCESS V, MICHELLE HART

Observations of the 2nd Princess... JACQUI

Well, I never thought I would ever be a "PRINCESS" and you know some of my friends when I expressed that emotion to them after the party didn't understand my emotion! Thing is, when you run for something you aim to win..you give it your best shot and it was a real close race between "TERI" and me! But the reality is and therefore the expression of my true emotion "is", that if a few short years ago you had said to my other self, someday, your going to be a "PRINCESS", I would have discounted it and in fact I would have said a lot of other thing too! But not any more, it is in reality a dream come true and so I am very happy to be "MICHELLE HART, ILLUSIONS 1st PRINCESS V" and as a club member to be fully in support of our new and current reigning "EMPRESS V... TERI", who, by the way, if given the support she deserves from all the membership will be a great Empress!

Since I came out of the closet to my wife and then to my friends at "ILLUSIONS" my crossdressing life has been a kaleidoscope of fantastic events! So many new experiences with so many new and different people have created a whole new way of life for me and now having found the threads of that adventuresome pathway, I am trying to follow it to it's logical conclusion! Even so, my activities when crossdressed as Michelle are still a well kept secret from the majority of my family, friends and work associates and therefore are only a part of my daily life. I've had to learn to practice balance and separation between making a living, spending quality time with family, friends, etc. and being crossdressed as Michelle. Having an understanding wife has

Wow! What a great few weeks! Unfortunately other commitments forced me to miss the Illusions 4th birthday party but the 5th birthday party exceeded even my wildest expectations. It was fantastic to see so many members and guests in attendance. The place was packed and they came from all over, B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, even the U.S.A.

Congratulations to Empress V - teri on her ascent to the throne. How exciting! Imagine a 1 vote victory. Congratulations also to Princess Michele on an excellent campaign. There were no losers in this contest, Illusions will be the winner with such a tremendous group focused on making our club even a better place for the transgendered community, if that's possible. For my part, thank you to all those who voted for me. I promise to do my utmost to work with Empress Teri, Princess Michele, Barbie and Christine to ensure that you our members, continue to have the best place in Canada, perhaps North America to express those very special qualities that give us so much enjoyment.

I thought it was a tremendous gesture on behalf of the I.S.C.C.A. (Gay Court) to attend our party. Empress Donna Du Yawannw is going out of her way to recognize Illusions and include us in the work of the gay community. I believe it is important that we continue to support this initiative since so many issues they are trying to address are common to those that affect us. Without their work for so many years we wouldn't have near the acceptance we have today nor the safe places to go and express ourselves.

Finally, I want to extend a personal invitation to everyone to get out and enjoy some of the special functions the

Social Committee News

Your Social Committee has already begun to map out an exciting new year of activities, beginning with the ARGRA rodeo expedition you can read about elsewhere in this issue. Plans for our annual Stampede BBQ and Girls of Summer soiree are also well under way.

Last year's Committee left things in excellent shape, with a kitty that will enable us to develop a more active agenda. Empress IV Lisa deserves a particular vote of thanks for generously donating the tips she received for her performance at the Birthday Party to the Social Committee fund, thereby increasing it by over 10% with one magnanimous gesture. We also start the year with a small treasure trove of leftover prizes thanks to Princess Diane's legendary procurement skills. This year's royalty will have its work cut out for it to match the standard Lisa and Diane set.

So far the new committee consists of Michelle, Jacqui (who has kindly agreed to be the custodian of our vast pool of capital), Gina, Christine and me. We need more members, so please let me know if you have an interest in becoming involved (or staying involved if you were on last year's committee and aren't included in the above list, which includes only those who have explicitly told me they wanted to join this year).

If you can't fit an ongoing commitment into your schedule, but have an idea of an event or expedition you would like to make happen, we'd also be glad to have you join us on a temporary basis to work on just that event. (Some possible excursions that could use organization are lessons in line dancing or some other kind of fancy footwork, a pyjama party, a brunch or a movie/play.)

Let's all pull together, gals, and we can have the best year yet!

(Empress Teri Continued)

Honourary Member Darryl, have continued to refine the physical facilities. No less important have been the countless hours put in to organize events, put on entertainment, publish the magazine and do all the other things it is too easy to take for granted. Calgary is known far and wide for its high level of volunteer activity, and our club has been no exception. If you think this spirit is as important as I do, take a few minutes now and then to nourish it. Stay 10 minutes at the end of a social some evening to help clean up; take the time to tidy up that mess in the corner or to organize the material in the library when you drop in to borrow a book or video.

I think it will be nice if my reign ends with a few more bucks in the social committee kitty, better ventilation, or a fancier sound system, but what would make me happiest would be to see these two pillars of the Illusions spirit end the year even stronger than they are today.

(Princess Michele Continued)

helped me greatly in having a less stressful situation than some and so I have been able to find ways of extending the time I have available for Michelle. It is my goal to adjust the details of my life so that those people who are important to me are aware of my activities so I can do even more and when ever I want to! We will see how it goes, but for now it is still apparent to me that it is quite possible to have a very active and fulfilling crossdressing experience once you have escaped the four walls of the closet even though discretion and secrecy are still required!

I guess one of the points I'd like to make in this particular article is that joining the Illusions Social Club has allowed me to address a part of my life that I was feeling guilty and stressful about and begin the process of putting it in order! So, it's been a great year and a half for me, from being a new member in total awe of everyone I met, to starting stage performance at the club, then later in some of the Clubs downtown and now being Illusions 1st Princess V! The real point is that my experience is not unique amongst our membership, lots of my sisters are doing great things for

themselves and others, each in their own way and so can you if you make the effort to try!

So, whether you are a new member or an old member, get involved in some of the many activities planned for this coming year, or if your still in the closet, stop just reading about us and come and join in the fun!

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

(Jacqui's Observations Cont'd)

Social Committee has lined up for the next few months. We're going to have a great time celebrating Life! Love.... Jacqui

Illusions Edmonton group has a new home

At our regular monthly social on May 18th, Christine informed the Edmonton girls that she would no longer be able to act as our hostess at our regular meetings. Before we go on to what has happened here since then, the girls in Edmonton want to say a big, queen sized thank you to Christine for all her gracious hospitality over the years.

Since May 18th, the Edmonton girls got together and decided to take the ball and run with it. We have since had two meetings and have appointed committees to make arrangements for social events, increasing memberships, operation of a boutique, etc...

Through the efforts of Dixie and Tiffany, we now have a regular meeting place in a light industrial area with easy access to major roads. This area also includes the basics of a TV boutique. Our intention is to have a weekly store night so our members can shop in comfort and for the purpose of meeting prospective members who might also like to do some shopping. Included in the shop are a selection of wigs, lingerie, shoes and consignment items. We hope to add more items as time goes on.

Our social committee will have a special event planned for each of our regular socials. Some nights the event will be of an educational/technical instruction nature, while other nights will focus on entertainment/fun. Any input from the members in this area would be greatly appreciated.

With the determination and support from the Edmonton girls, this can become a vibrant organisation. There is no limit to where we can go. We now have the place, so let's make the most of it!

We look forward to hosting our sisters from Red Deer, Calgary and elsewhere.

The Girls of Edmonton

Please call us at 403 - 486 - 9661

Edmonton Social Events Calendar

Thursday July 13 - Video Night
Thursday August 10 - PhotoNight
Sunday August 20 - I.S.C.W.R. Ball
Thursday September 14 - Makeover Night

Unwanted Hair-no more

At our May 25 Illusions social, we concluded our spring education series with a visit from Laura-Lee from Avenue Aesthetics. As a licensed electrologist Laura-Lee informed our group of the costs and time required for electronic hair removal.

It's not cheap, expect to pay over \$12,000 to have your beard removed over a two year period. A face cannot be waxed to remove hair, but you can wax your body, the removal can cause irritation and pain but the process can get better the longer you continue. A body wax job can cost around \$75, depending on who you visit.

Laura-Lee has worked on many a TV/TS and there are others who do not have problem with our lifestyle. It's best that you research for your electrologist/waxing technician, before starting.

Thankyou Melanie for introducing Laura-Lee.

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

A NEW IDEA IN BREAST FORMS!

First, thanks to the 500+ customers who have bought my forms. You've kept me pretty busy for a part-time venture! A new idea, using material similar to the softest "plastic fishing worms", makes an ideal breast form ... soft, supple, flesh-colored, with realistic weight, feel and bounce. With talc applied, they feel soft and silky. (Try talc on some plastic worms and see what I mean!)

IF, AFTER TEN DAYS, YOU AREN'T SATISFIED, RETURN THEM FOR A FULL REFUND!!!

Sizes through 16 are \$79.95. Sizes 18 through 22 are \$99.95. Size 28 is \$119.95. Shipping is included. (New York residents add 8% sales tax.) In U.S. funds!

Sizing chart:

	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
A	8	10	11	12	13	14	xx	xx
B	10	11	12	13	14	16	18	20
C	10	12	13	14	16	18	20	22
D	12	13	14	16	18	20	22	28

If you are very conservative, order the next smaller size. This is not a business I had planned for. I had an idea and made a couple. Girls at the local club (TGIC) wanted some. I made more. Now, most of the girls I know have them, and most major national outlets are selling them!

You can get them through Vernon's Specialties, Jim Bridges, Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique, Best Value Products, Fashion Fantasy, Especially For Me, Laine Alexander ... or you can order them directly from me!

I certainly wouldn't say that mine are "better" than the expensive forms; they don't "glue on" and the nipple isn't a darker color for "see through", but they sure do have a natural feel and weight - for a lot less money!

To order, send check or money order to:
Ed Hall, P.O. Box 501, Williamstown MA 01267.
State desired form size or bra and cup size.

A Good Idea is also in Canada!

The Ed Hall Breast Forms are now available here, at Canadian prices. Include 7% GST and 5% Shipping. Sizes through 16 are \$109.95, 10 through 22 are \$139.95 and Size 28 is \$169.95.

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[letters from readers]

kept up to speed on what's been happening lately. It's also a great morale booster to keep in touch.

You gals are continuing to do a great job with the club and newsletter and I'm very proud to be a member of "Illusions". It's too bad I'm stuck out here because I wish I could be more involved and active with the club. Take care and God bless.

Love,
Ursula #41

Dear Christine,

Thank you for sending the last issue of "Illusions". It sure is good to be able to read up on all the news and happenings going on with the club. I'd like to wish the club a big "Happy Birthday!"

I would like to mention that there are some interesting crossdressing questions and answers in the Compuserv Internet to be found under "G O H S X K E Y e n t e r , CROSSDRESSING enter. Check it out if you have a chance.

Love to all the members,
Joan #284

Dear Editors,

Hello -- my name is B.W. and I am a transvestite or, to be politically correct; a transgendered person. Recently a friend in Ontario passed along to me a copy of your magazine, "Illusions", which I had never seen before.

I was very impressed with your magazine and would like to take out a subscription as well as perhaps obtain some back issues. The whole impression I had from the magazine is one of **good taste** and considering some of the fairly lurid ones on the market, yours is **quite an accomplishment**. I'm not saying there's anything wrong with lurid per se, but I look upon your magazine as being a **useful teaching tool** in

addition to it being **entertaining**.

A few months ago in Moncton, a support group was formed calling itself the "Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" or P-FLAG and while I am not gay, I am assisting the group and am trying to find quality examples of publications which illustrate the trans-gendered lifestyle in a supportive way. I think your magazine is terrific in this regard especially with the "real-life" features.

There is very little material or support groups for TV/TS individuals in Atlantic Canada. If I have read your articles and have sensed the import of your magazine correctly, you have done a super job in Alberta and the west, and it would certainly be a privilege to join you, if that were possible.

You may well be familiar with a major new study of transsexuals which appeared in 1989, entitled "In Search Of Eve" (by sociologist Anne Bolen), and which revealed that over half of the candidates for male - to - female sex re-assignment surgery not only do not hate their penises, nor are especially attracted to male sexual partners, but are routinely forced to lie to their therapists, and fabricate such interests, in order to obtain the desired surgery. At least as a partial response, as you may also be aware, the psychiatric community, which previously revised its "Bible" the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", or DSM-R, in 1987, issued a new edition, the DSM-TV, in 1994, in which the terms "transvestite" and "transsexual" will be replaced in clinical practice by "transgender", and possibly the criteria for sex re-assignment surgery will not be quite so stringent.

It comes a little late to help me. In 1978 (at age 34) I approached the Clarke Institute in Toronto to begin the process toward eventual surgery, and was turned back flat because,

(Cont'd on Page 18)

THE DOOR TO PROGRESS.....

As a crossdresser, it is not always obvious, but generally you are aware that something about you is different. This can be detected as early as three or four years of age, however for myself it was at the age of nine. We are all pretty much aware of the pattern, discovering an attraction to feminine clothing, even feeling a tendency towards girlish mannerisms. At nine years of age this urge to try clothing belonging to your sister or your mother is at first disturbing, (doubts start forming about normality) then challenging, (can I do it and not get caught) it becomes exciting and arousing to touch and feel them against your skin, such silky smooth texture. There is the fantasy and escapism imagining growing up as a girl, finally the guilt, (hoping no-one will discover) Since we are conditioned as boys while growing up, it is necessary to suppress these feelings and urges, but they surface periodically to be suppressed again. On turning eighteen and enlisting in the Royal Canadian Navy, over the course of seven years these feelings intensified in frequency and duration. Back into civilian life, frequently over a span of sixteen years small quantities of womans clothing, both under and outer garments were bought. In time two modest sized wardrobes had been assembled and purged. These situations will sound all too familiar to many readers.

In late 1990 the existence of "Illusions" social club came to my attention and on joining, the extent to which ones life would change was hard to visualize. Suddenly, "The Door To Progress" was about to be opened wide, but as many members find, it is often the hardest one to open. To actually admit to someone (Barbie) about crossdressing can present a formidable task. However as a result of the first social evening I attended, it was easy to feel comfortable amongst the members. As each month passed the opportunity to meet the other girls, the pleasant conversation and a common interest seemed to be the focal point of the month, also the extra curricular outings to other night spots were eagerly awaited. Since its modest beginning, "Illusions" has seen considerable growth, the objective is to foster and develop the personal growth of our members. Being a gradual process, we progress at a pace that is comfortable to ourselves. It is hoped that whatever questions a member has, that someone will have the answer, or the source of information the member is looking for. My own reason for being involved in the forefront of issues facing crossdressers, is that by confronting the situation head on and raising awareness it will give newcomers to the club the incentive to face their own situation with courage and conviction, remember a problem shared is a problem halved. The intention is to instill confidence in our new girls. Many of us have different situations and are not always able, or do not wish to inform others of their crossdressing. This of course is an individual choice as there are both advantages and disadvantages of others (outside of the club) knowing about your lifestyle. Having been fortunate in this area, most people I have encountered have been curious and inquisitive, genuinely wanting to learn more about our lifestyle rather than being hostile or abusive. You are the ones who must decide whether or not to go public as it is a major step in your life. In the course of being a club member, there have been many people I have met, and several have become good friends. The enjoyable evenings and fun outings have indeed been plentiful. Since January of 1991 there has been everything from shopping trips to weekend visits to Edmonton and Red Deer.

Many crossdressers are reluctant to try socializing outside of the relative safety of gay bars and clubs, however if they do make the effort to check out the straight bar scene, smaller lounges are the safest bet. It is advisable to be familiar with the staff and surroundings first as your male self, get to know some of the regulars by being a regular yourself. On a trip to Edmonton for the November 1991 "Illusions" meeting, a situation arose in the lounge of the Renford Inn, whilst enjoying a drink the waitress placed another one in front of me and explained "The gentleman by the bar bought you a drink dear," politely smiling in acknowledgement, and praying that it would not lead to anything, (thankfully it didn't) I relaxed and leisurely sipped on it. When I was leaving, after visiting the ladies room, there was one dazed and bewildered gentleman when my masculine sounding voice bid him a polite "Thank you very much for the drink dear." Here is a good example of how not to handle a situation as it could have become quite difficult. Many visits to Maxwells lounge in the Sandman Hotel as a male (regular) and en femme as Karen have shown the value of knowing the territory and thus lessening the risk of unforeseen incidents. February 1992 saw the emergence of "Ms Special K", who has become a regular performer at "Illusions", more recently at the Midnight Cafe and having been involved in over thirty shows around town, I have found this to be very enjoyable and rewarding. Through sharing the stage with many of the "Illusions" girls, local and out of town Drag Queens and a couple of solo performances, I've gained experience and flair as a performer and added confidence to my "Femme" persona. A sincere thank you to everyone for their encouragement along the way.

With the social activities at "Illusions", the exchange of information between members, it gives us a chance to experiment with various styles and to perfect our makeup application. We try to perfect our posture, master the skill of walking gracefully in heels, learn how to care for a wig (or wigs), and can find a clothing style best suited to our own taste. Confidence comes with practice and in time you will be ready to go out in public, even in daylight hours, if you are "read" you will feel confident enough to smile back and let them know you have arrived, that you belong there too. As you travel around you will feel that glowing sensation of accomplishment. Remember girls, that crossdressing is more accepted now than it has ever been at any time, the secret is to know your limitations and proceed accordingly. If I can help in developing your "Femme" technique, don't hesitate to ask. Finally girls, in your excursions around the city, use discretion and above all act graciously in portraying the lady you know you can be. Yours in Knickers & Knockers..Lady in Waiting, Karen #71

Dear Barbie and Christine,

The Illusion's 5th Birthday party was great!

I had a wonderful time and everyone who worked on it and helped out should be told they did a fine job. Your efforts especially must be commended for a job well done.

Unfortunately, I had to travel back to Kamloops so did not get a chance to visit the store and meet with you again. Well, next time I will make sure to spend some extra time visiting you and the store. The trip and visit this past weekend was very special with meeting so many wonderful and sincere people.

Thanks and take care.
Beverly Taylor #360

Dear Barbie and Christine,

Hi and how's it going? Wow, where has the time gone? It doesn't seem too long ago that I was up on stage running for Empress and I have to admit that it was the thrill of a lifetime to be crowned 2nd Princess '94! I'm still on cloud nine! Although I wasn't able to make the 5th Birthday party I am setting my sights on '96.

I am doing fine and am keeping busy here between work and the joy of being a new home owner. I am now in regular contact with Karen, Michelle and Dixie and have therefore been

(LETTERS... Cont'd from Page 16)

I had no desire for male sexual partners, but only a passionate desire to become a woman. However, I am trying to counsel others and parents, towards greater acceptance of both gay and trans-gender lifestyles, and for those affected not to be ashamed of their feelings. There was certainly nowhere I could turn when I first experienced those feelings in the late 1950's.

Again, I think highly of your magazine, and hope that you will drop a line, if nothing else to advise on the availability of the issues which I mentioned, and the cost of obtaining them.

Every good wish for your continuing publication and social club success.

Best Regards

B.W.

Dear Christine and Barbie,

Sorry for the delay in writing, but I have been "Up North" for a month, with no mail.

I've had some wonderful and very supportive correspondence with "Michelle". I fully plan to visit as soon as possible. (summer is real busy for me) Without the magazine, I would not be corresponding with her, let alone planning a visit.

Thanks a million for your great magazine!

Billie - Jean #318

Dear Illusions,

Even though I live in Vancouver and cannot make it to "Illusions" functions very often, I feel that the newsletter alone is worth the price of membership. My first time out in public was at the "Illusions" Stampede BBQ last July.

I enjoyed meeting a lot of new people, and have become close friends with a few. My life has changed in many significant ways since joining "Illusions" and my first experiences in public were very positive and I credit "Illusions" and its members for the positive nature of my experiences

to date. It set me on a positive track and there's no looking back now.

I hope to make it to one or two functions this year. Until then, all the best to everyone.

In heels and hose,

Yvonne #301

Dear Illusions:

I wish I could visit the club but I live far away. One idea I have is someone set up a Bed & Breakfast near the clubs that members attend in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary. Then members like me could stay there for a day or three and get to attend club functions. The owners being kindred spirits, would not object to discrete guests. Guests would not have to drive across town or pay the rather high hotel rates. As it is, my relatives would not find my TV side to be acceptable.

I have a red long cocktail dress, size 18T from Tallgirl, 3/4 sleeve and pleated skirt, just isn't me and I would like to see it get a good home. I saw another I must have so write me and we'll make a deal.

Love,

Billie #192

Greetings from Saskatoon!

I would like to thank all of you who showed me such warm hospitality when I was at the Midnight Cafe, especially Correen, Teri, Princess Diane, Dana, Jade, Arizona, and Empress Lisa. It was the time of my life, and, the first of many, I hope.

Thank - you.

Yours truly,

Mandy #357

Dear Illusions,

I would like to start a small club that I hope will help members old and new alike to identify each other at any time. I know that we all meet one another around town from time to time and it would be nice to recognize each other in a quiet and discreet manner, so I am introducing: "The Glass Slipper Club".

The Glass Slipper is a beautiful small clear plastic HIGH HEEL key chain, 3"L x 2"H x 1"W with colored beads at the toe. By displaying the Slipper other members can identify with you and is a discreet way of showing you are TV, TS, or CD. Perhaps a conversation starter to open the subject to potential new friends or members for "Illusions". Best of all it will help out of town members identify with you.

All mail will be kept confidential:

To become a member, please print your real name, address, and "Illusions" number on a plain paper and send it along with a cheque or money order for \$2.00 for the first one and an extra \$1.50 for a second one, limit two per letter to;

The Glass Slipper Club

c/o John Blair

5108 - 31 St.

Lloydminster, Alta.

T9V 1E3

Thanks,

Joan #284

(Thanks to Joan for her donation to our Club)

Dear Illusions:

I'm a 38 yr. old, male CD'er who has been CD'ing since I was a teenager. At last I have found you people! I knew you were out there but until I found your magazine "Illusions" in a local adult store I had no way of making contact (I am quite shy about my CD'ing: am passable but need polish and confidence). I hope my years of isolation are coming to an end - I really need to socialize with persons of a sympathetic nature. I note that sponsorship is required to attend meetings and I do certainly respect this element of discretion - especially, re: the lack of human rights provisions to protect us in this province. I look forward to meeting you, becoming a member and helping the local chapter grow.

Sincerely in Sisterhood,

Roxanne #365

Viewpoints

Dreams

from page 10

Surely, being around all those female presence's, those adults I looked up to, would have had an effect on my psyche, and therefore my dreams?

In grade eight in health class we had a guest speaker come to talk to us about sex. During her talk she mentioned sex change operations. At the end of this presentation she asked if any of us had questions. Of course, embarrassed teenagers that we were, none of us did. I, however, ached to know: If a man has a sex change operation, can he be later changed back? That question never was asked.

"I want to know what it is like, for real, without having to pretend."

In on episode of the *Bionic Woman* our heroine (Jamie Summers) was kidnapped and drugged. The evil men that did this intended to alter her appearance with cosmetic surgery so that she would never be recognised by the authorities. This was the first time I heard of plastic surgery, and therefore I would daydream that somebody would kidnap me and turn me into a girl. That way I could get what I wanted and not have to face those who would condemn me for wanting such a thing.

Sometimes I want to be a

woman. I want to know what it is like, for real, without having to pretend. Here, at least, I can admit this. I don't dislike being a man, however. It's okay. If I had a choice before I was born, though, I know which gender I would have picked.

I don't know why I am this way. I sift through memories, but I suspect the answer lies beyond conscious recall, perhaps even my genes. Intellectually and emotionally, I accept my transgendered nature. Physically, I'm working on it. Spiritually, I've begun the process of reconciling myself with my Christian faith. Socially, Illusions will be my training ground.

Now, I practice clothes shopping without shame, work up the courage to show a little bare leg, share these words with an audience outside my head. these are small steps that I hope alter this world for the better.

Finally, I am taking responsibility for who I want to be. **Angela O'Brian**

Believe in Yourself

Crossdressers face many difficult emotional questions. Am I straight? Gay? Bi? Ts? Was I born this way or have outside influences contributed to my crossdressing?

All-in-all crossdressing is a way of expressing ones inner emotional gender, which is opposite of ones physical appearance. For most crossdressers during the early stages, of wearing clothes of the opposite sex, contributes to Gender Identity Crises. All crossdressers need someone to talk to during this stage, but rarely does one have such a confident. As the years progress, as we grow. We sometimes find that in our relationships we are still hidden away in the closet, which really isn't healthy at all. wouldn't it be grand if you had that special person in your life that you could be totally open about your crossdressing. Having such a place as illusions is a blessing in disguise, a place to dress, feel comfortable and best of all be accepted as an equal. A place where no one will judge or think less of you.

Coming forth with your crossdressing will give you back your inner peace. It's a way to feel complete and not be in need of someone else to make you whole. It is one of the ways back to the path of light that enlightens the inner you, that light of being the first clicked on in the womb and which is still humming along.

With that thought in mind, let me share one other thought. "Beliefs about how we should behave are all misconstrued." There is no way for us to do the right thing according to society's standards. Thinking we are doing the right thing is part of the illusion of being in control. It is a milestone in growing up to get this - there is no one right way to be. Just be yourself!

Have a fantastic summer! *Arizzona*

Illusions

Magazine

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Volume 3 Issue 6 Mar/Apr '94-----

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And the Winner is: The evening is climaxed with our crowning of Empress V and her court. After Ladies in Waiting were announced, second Princess was Jacqui and from a one vote difference, Michelle becomes first Princess and Teri is our new Empress.

Great prizes of flowers, jewelry and perfume were awarded to the contestants, courtesy of B & B, in addition Empress Teri was given a pair of new shoes courtesy of Dixie at Crossland Shoes.

Empress Teri and her court took to the throne and smiled for the cameras, later they dished out cake to all.

Congratulations to Empress V Teri, Princesses Michelle and Jacqui and to the Ladies in Waiting!

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Holiday En Femme



**The 1995 Gathering of Tri-Ess ... hosted by the Phi Sigma Chapter of Calgary, Canada
November 15 - 19, 1995**

at the incredible Kananaskis Lodge - a superb '4 star plus' hotel nestled in one of the finest valleys of the Rocky Mountains - just outside world renowned Banff National Park, and the place where the world met for the '88 Winter Olympics.



Check us out! The program is on the opposite page and the brochure/registration is inserted in this issue.

- ◆ **EXCEPTIONAL ENTERTAINMENT** - you'll have a riot!
- ◆ **A SUPERB PROGRAM** - a chance to hear and meet the leaders and authorities in our 'field'/lifestyle
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- ◆ a conference package with American Airlines and Canadian Airlines that gives up to **40% OFF AIR FARES** - contact American at 1-800-433-1790 and quote file MJ2678 OR Canadian at 1-800-665-5554 and quote file #2678.

CONTACT US ...

at Phi Sigma
Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. SE,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2J 7C9
Fax (403) 278-6779

Phone the hotel directly, and soon, to reserve your
'cut rate' conference room .. (403) 591-7711

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your life - an
unbelievable
combination of
attractions!**



If you're thinking of coming, drop us a line

- ◆ give us your reaction to the program - how can we make it even more interesting FOR YOU?
- ◆ ask any question at all - we're only too happy to get the answer
- ◆ let us know if you're a shopper, a hiker, a skier, a sightseer, a Karaoke star, a stage performer, someone who'd like to do a session - we need to know so we can get things set up
- ◆ can we send you more brochures?

We're planning special update mailings for registered holiday-goers AND for anyone that contacts us with a suggestion, question or simply for more information.

PROGRAM - 1995 Holiday En Femme

Wednesday Evening 'Get Together'

7:00 - 9:00 pm



buffet dinner at the hotel - meeting old and new friends
official welcomes
after dinner presentation - **'Presenting the Canadian Rockies'** - a naturalist speaks of and illustrates the beauty, history and natural significance of the four national parks that surround us.

Thursday - Out and About

Continental Breakfast - 10 am

Going International - Simply a Step in the Evolution of Tri-Ess

A joint presentation by Jane Ellen Fairfax (Tri-Ess Chair) and Carol Beecroft (Executive Director) - reviewing the history and progress of both Tri-Ess and acceptance of cross dressing in Society, celebrating a new recognition of Canada's involvement, and looking forward to anticipated next steps.

.....

The Lake Louise Rendezvous - noon to 6 pm

All participants encouraged to tour the Canadian Rockies to spectacular Chateau Lake Louise for a late light lunch in the Tom Thompson Room overlooking the lake and the Plain of Six Glaciers. Several busses to provide alternatives on the return route - more tour, shopping in Banff, or straight to the hotel.

.....

Dinner/Entertainment at the Hotel - 8:00 pm on

After dinner presentation by Dr. Peggy Rudd - **'Reaching for the Gender Gift'** (masculine/feminine balance in androgyny) - followed by a fashion show (Darkside) - entertainment by 'Ty, Tyme and Twiggy' - Karaoke in the lounge.

Friday - Learning/Partying

PLENARY SESSION - 10 am

'SPICE and the Partner's Perspective' - Linda Peacock briefs us on the role of SPICE and the understandings that have emerged on the needs and views of the female partner in the relationship. A prelude to a SPICE afternoon discussion group.

SESSION OPTIONS - 10:45 to 12

Religious Views - Cathy Helms
If, When and How to Involve the Children - Peggy Rudd
coordinates panel discussion.
Womenspeak - Dr. Moira Andrews on feminine voice patterns and strategies for communicating socially

SESSION OPTIONS - 2 to 4pm

SPICE Session - SPICE members host a special session for the wives and significant others - presentations and discussion.
Speech Practice with Moira
Makeup lessons - 3 demos
Wig Care - 'hands on' experience

.....

Party Night in Kananaskis - 6 pm

We will be joined by friends of Tri-Ess from Calgary area for:

- ◆ a wine and cheese hour sponsored by our vendors
- ◆ "Stepping Out" - with Lisa
- ◆ a sumptuous western BBQ
- ◆ a 'floor show' featuring the best of Calgary.

Saturday - Banquet Day

A Day of Relaxation and Preparation for our Final Banquet

The Spa will be open - vendors will be helping with makeovers, wigs, outfits - local hikes and/or high altitude skiing for the adventurous - minitours and shopping trips.

A Conversation with Virginia - morning coffee with Virginia Prince

Chapter Exchange - TriEss reps from all over North America share experiences, program ideas and suggestions for a stronger future for our organization(s).

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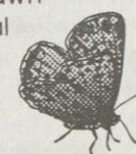
A Brunch Workshop for Couples - 10 am to 1 pm

A facilitated opportunity for couples to share their stories, learn from each other's experiences, and create strategies for a 'better tomorrow'. Carol Beecroft - representing the National Couples Group.

.....

A Formal Evening Together

- ◆ a social hour from 6-7 pm
- ◆ banquet/presentations @ 7 pm
- ◆ **Wild West Casino and Murder Mystery**
- ◆ Karaoke toward dawn
- ◆ **Alexis** - professional photographer on site to record our best appearances ever.



Concluding with the Sunday Brunch - 10:30 am - goodbyes until next year!

This Chit Chat is with Teri, our newly-elected Empress of Illusions.

Illusions...So, Teri, how did it feel to be crowned as Illusions' fifth empress?

Teri: People probably expected me to jump up and down, but that's not me. When something I've been working towards comes true, my first reaction is to feel relieved, not excited. But right after that I felt like deer frozen in the headlights: there were all these members out there looking at me who would actually be expecting me to do some of the things I had talked about! And then I was very touched that so many people had honoured me this way. The club is very important to us all, so it's a great responsibility.

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Illusions...Any more thoughts once it all sank in?

Teri: The first thing I started to think of afterwards was all the people I should have thanked by name, like Barbie, Christine and Darryl for organizing the whole affair and donating many of the gifts, Dixie from Crossland Shoes for the "Imperial Footwear", all the people who gave me their support (every one of whom turned out to be important!), Empress IV Lisa and Princess Diane for raising the club to a new high of enthusiasm, and especially Ty Morgan, who did my makeup that night and was my biggest fan.

I: That admiration seems to work both ways...

Teri: It sure does. Ty was the one who really taught me how to do my

CHIT CHAT

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makeup, but more than that, his support really helped me to come out and feel comfortable in a milieu that was very different from any I had known before. He's like a brother to me and has introduced me to a lot of people in the community. I keep hoping his performance talent will rub off on me in the same way his confidence did, but unfortunately so far it doesn't seem to be as contagious! I actually heard of one comment that night that I thought was hilarious: someone apparently asked him if he

was my agent! I think poor Ty would get *awfully* hungry trying to live on 10% of anything I could earn on stage.

I: Speaking of the stage, what kind of numbers can we expect?

Teri: Probably a lot of show tunes that allow me to vamp it up. Saucy songs allow you to act flirtatious without sending out the wrong vibes and possibly attracting unwanted attention. And they're also fairly easy if you're not a great dancer.

I: You've come a long way in the two years since you joined the club. How did it all start?

Teri: Well, like a lot of the members I felt different from a very early age and started actually dressing in lingerie around Grade Eight. I never really felt comfortable with men; they just didn't seem to have the characteristics I thought a good person should have. I

tried to fit in, and did get interested in a few typically male activities, but always felt like an outsider. Almost all my close friends have always been women.

I: How did your dressing evolve over the years?

Teri: At first it wasn't sexual; it was just a way for me to imagine I was a member of the group I identified with. It became a turn-on, though, and was for a long time. Once I joined the club, though, I got access to a lot of help on how to improve my clothes (thanks, Barbie!) and makeup (thanks again, Ty!), and a lot of opportunities to do things as a woman. Now it has mostly lost that sexual component and once again become more a way for me to be part of the group I identify with.

I: This is kind of personal, but would you like to be a woman if you could?

Teri: One thing I want members to know, especially if they're new and just trying to figure out both the psychological and "technical" aspects of their dressing, is that they can ask me anything. I may not always know the answer, but nothing is too personal to ask. But to return to the question, yes, if I could. But given my height (6'3" in stockings; 6'8" in my favorite heels and hair), features, my other physical characteristics, and my overall goals in life, that's just not a realistic option for me.

I: Does it bother you that that wish won't be fulfilled?

Teri: It's easy to be obsessed by what can't or won't be, but that's a temptation I try to resist. Your gender or sexuality is just one part of you, and it has to be balanced against all the other parts of your life. Overall I have a very rewarding life, and now that I have an outlet for the feminine side of me, I think I've obtained a workable balance. For others, that balance may weigh in favour of a different course of action, but I'm happy with my life, overall. Like most people, though, I just need more time to live.

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I: Coming back to the Empress thing, what have you done as Empress so far?

Teri: The very first thing I did was march in the Gay Pride parade on June 18. Despite the rain, there was a good turnout. Although I'm not gay myself, the gay community has been very welcoming and supportive of us, so I feel the least we can do is reciprocate that support, particularly since many of the issues which affect them also affect us. I hope that next year we'll be able plan ahead and have a larger presence. When else can you march through the centre of town in your stilletteos and support a worthy cause, too?

The following Tuesday, Michelle, Jacqui and I went to Photos by Alexis to have our "official" royal photos taken for the magazine. We had a lot of fun during the shoot, especially watching Michelle hop around in her fabulous mermaid

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costume. Alexis has been another great supporter of the club, donating not just these photos (reworked electronically for the cover by Gina's friend Greg), but also a door prize of a makeover/photo shoot that was won by one of our out-of-town members at the Birthday Party.

After the shoot, we had a meeting to get the Social Committee started for the new year. The election seemed to really stimulate people's thinking and enthusiasm. Princesses Michelle and Jacqui have been outstanding in sharing the burdens of getting our new season off to a flying start, and there are many others who have expressed interest in helping out. We can always use more help and ideas, though!

I: What are you doing to get more membership involvement?

Teri: Four things. First, I've been handing out my infamous cards so people know how to reach me to volunteer ideas, help, or even (gulp!) criticism. Second, I'll try to be as specific as possible about what needs to be done. Sometimes all it takes is for a member to know there is a job that requires her particular skill. Third, I'll try to set an example, for instance, by my commitment to keep the bathroom clean. Our Princesses are also great examples. And finally, I'll try to make sure that those who help get recognized for their contributions. For example, Krystal, Michelle & Brenda, Dana, Rachel and Lisa showed up the day after the Birthday

Party to help Christine and Darryl clean up, and deserve a big thank you.

I: What are your personal goals for the year?

Teri: First of all, to survive! I'm sure it will be a challenge to keep up with the club activities and not let the rest of my life fall apart, but with everyone's help, I think I'll manage somehow. I also hope to develop my performing abilities a bit more, learn more about hair styling and dancing,

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I: And where do we go from here clubwise?

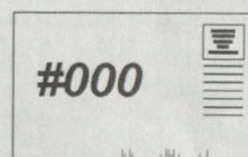
Teri: The Social Committee has a big year planned, with lots of activities both inside and outside the club walls. We're also trying to improve the exchange of information with other groups like the ISCCA and ARGRA so we can organize expeditions to some of their events to expand the range of outings available to those who might not feel comfortable going on their own. And I know Michelle, Jacqui and I are all keen to head up to Edmonton to meet all the gals up there as soon as we can swing it. So it will be a busy year, but one I think we will all be able to look back on with fond memories. Remember gals--reality is for those who can't face fantasy!

...welcome to the *Illusions* Registry...

Look through the
next 10 pages and meet us.

- We are a group of over 200 crossdressers, transsexuals and friends. We provide a safe, discrete and welcoming atmosphere.
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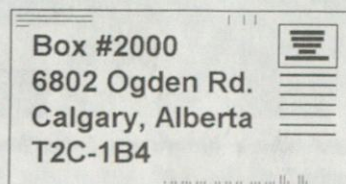
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Join the ladies of Illusions

Your membership with us gets you:

- 6 Illusions magazines, sent either to your door, box or the club
- Free advertisement in the magazine registry
- Privilege to attend Illusions socials
- Check out of club library materials
- Use of club changing, make-up and lounging facilities during the day

Your's for only \$40

If you are in the Calgary area, visit us at the shop of Lingerie by Barbie-B & B Leatherworks. This is the address:

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Canada

If you are from out of town, write us to the above address. Tell us about yourself, send a photo if you want to be in the registry and include a cheque or money order in Canadian funds for \$40 made out to *Illusions Social Club*.

If you prefer to just receive the magazine, no problem. We'll send it to you in a plain brown wrapper. The price is still \$40.

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Where to fly in '95

SPICE - July 27 - 30

For Spouses of Gender Gifted Males
Memphis, TN
Contact - Linda Peacock
P.O. Box 24031
Little Rock, AR 72221
501 - 227 - 8798

PARADISE IN THE POCANOS - Sept 14 - 17

Canadensis, Pennsylvania
Contact - CDS, P.O. Box 61263
King Of Prussia, PA 19406 USA
610 - 640 - 9449

SOUTHERN COMFORT - Sept 27 - Oct 1

Atlanta, Georgia
Contact - Southern Comfort
P.O. Box 77591
Atlanta, GA 30357 USA

MARDI GRAS '95 - September 28 - Oct 1

Presented by The Monarch Social Club
Divine Lake Resort, Muskoka Lakes, Ontario
Contact - Mardi Gras '95 Committee
Mississauga 'A'
P.O. Box 386
Mississauga, Ont. Canada
L5A 3A1

FALL FLING - October 5 - 9

Cape Cod, Massachusetts
Contact - TCNE, P.O. Box 2283
Woburn, MA 01888 - 0483 USA
617 - 891 - 9325

FANTASIA FAIR '95 - Oct 15 - 22

Sponsored by Outreach Institute For Gender Studies
Write to: FAN FAIR '95
Attn-Registrar, P.O. Box 941
SE Pa., 19399-0941, USA

FALL HARVEST - October 26 - 29

Contact - St. Louis Gender Foundation
P.O. Box 9433
St. Louis, MO 63117 USA
314 - 358 - 0410

HOLIDAY EN FEMME - November 15 - 19

Hosted by Calgary's Phi Sigma Chapter of Tri-Ess
Kananaskis Lodge, Rocky Mountains
Contact: Phi Sigma
Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. S.E.,
Calgary, Alberta, T2J 7C9, CANADA

Would your group or support club like to be part of this list?
Write or call Illusions at 403 - 264 - 3950

The Classifieds

Responding to any of these classified is easy. Respond in the same manner as you would to an Illusions Registry ad. See Page 30 for details. Remember the \$2

#1001 Mistress Black

Edmonton, Alta. 6'4" Goddess in black leather, 30 yrs. young, TV. Looking for the right subject to serve my whims. Enjoys bondage and discipline. Consideration given to sincere honest responses. Your picture gets fast response. So tell me your fantasies and we'll see what happens.....

#1004 JUDY'S FASHION

COLLECTION Friendship Welcome, I have three years of "Club" membership (#264) and wish to hear from you! Ph:477-3981 ; 11514 - 97 St. Edmonton, Alta., T5G 1X8

#1005 I'm a very sensual, feminine TV. Silky smooth, attractive and willing to be a sincere gentleman's mistress. Allow me to model for you or play wonderful erotic role games. Discretion assured! Your response gets my photo. Other TV's for lovers could be acceptable.

#1006 Are you a Gentleman who would be interested in exploring a relationship with an attractive pre-op TS? I enjoy Candlelight dinners to walks in the park. For the right man, very sensual times exploring our fantasies. A letter with your photo gets an immediate response.

"OH, WHAT A FEELING!"

Regency Toyota, a Vancouver Toyota dealership that advertised prominently in Xtra West, Vancouver's gay community magazine, has emerged from a boycott battle with a fundamentalist group not only unscathed, but strengthened. The group had sent letters of complaint to both the dealership and Toyota Canada's head office, calling the publication "pornographic" and threatening to boycott Toyota products, but the dealership and Toyota Canada stood firm. After media reports and editorials criticised the boycott campaign, Regency actually noticed a substantial increase in customer enquiries, not only from gay clients but also others who wanted to support open minded business with their patronage. Regency Toyota sales manager Naz Bharmal stated: "I believe it (boycott) backfired, I've received nothing but good press, and it's been good for business."

Globe and Mail, June 17, 1995, p.A8 (condensed)

(ED. NOTE: We don't have to bow to the right wing, however we do need to always remember that when we're in public, the Image we portray {good or bad} will be what the general public will judge us by. We need to make sure we don't garner the general public's disrespect or we surely will have much to fear for, particularly in this province without any workable "Human Rights" legislation!)

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Letters to Illusions

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